

August 2007

Dear Parents,

Later this month, I will be sending my youngest son, Trent, to kindergarten. This will be his first experience with full-time school. He is really excited. He cannot wait to start school, make new friends, meet his teacher and the principal. (I have a feeling that Trent and the principal may end up seeing a lot of each other, but that's another story.) I think he's even looking forward to just riding the bus.

For Trent, the excitement of school comes from all of the new experiences he will encounter. Trent doesn't know it yet, but school is about new opportunities. Opportunities to learn new things, have new experiences (riding that bus) and meet new people (the principal?). As he gets older, Trent will come to see school as the opportunity to learn about the world, to learn about different people and cultures and the opportunity to learn the skills he needs to make the most of his abilities and talents. It is an exciting journey that Trent begins, and one that all students continue this fall.

The 2007-08 school year begins my first year as the superintendent at Burr Ridge C.C.S.D. 180. I, too, am excited about my opportunity this fall. I am proud to be associated with the accomplishments of this staff and the district. I know that there are many challenges ahead for the district, but I also know that each of those challenges also represents an opportunity.

This year, we have the opportunity for parents and community members, teachers and staff to all work together to bring about quality educational opportunities for all children of the district.

As the State standards for achievement continue to increase, our efforts will be more tightly focused than ever on the academic achievement of every child. I know that we can not only meet, but also surpass these State standards.

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During this critical time the Board of Education and I have been working together and set goals that together we can work on for the coming school year.

- Improving student achievement
- Creating a safe and productive school climate
- Serving the needs of all of our students
- Efficient management practices
- Future facilities planning

You should also know that our Board of Education and administrators have and will continue to carefully manage district resources. In the last year of its ranking, the district received an “A-1” bond rating from Moodys. Again this year, the district has received the state of Illinois’ Certificate of Financial Recognition.

Clearly the Burr Ridge C.C.S.D. 180 Board of Education has done an outstanding job in managing the district’s financial resources. We will continue these careful management practices as we bring our students new educational opportunities and outstanding facilities.

To be successful in these areas requires excellent communication between parents and school. Please be sure to check our web site: www.ccsd180.org as well as the weekly information sent home from your child’s teachers.

Please be sure to call the number above if you have any questions regarding our additional educational programs and your child’s progress. Our entire staff wants to work with you to help our students succeed.

We look forward to great school year and your continued support for all of our students and their education.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tom Schneider, Superintendent